

San Luis Obispo County

Department of Planning and Building Environmental Division

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCOPING MEETING

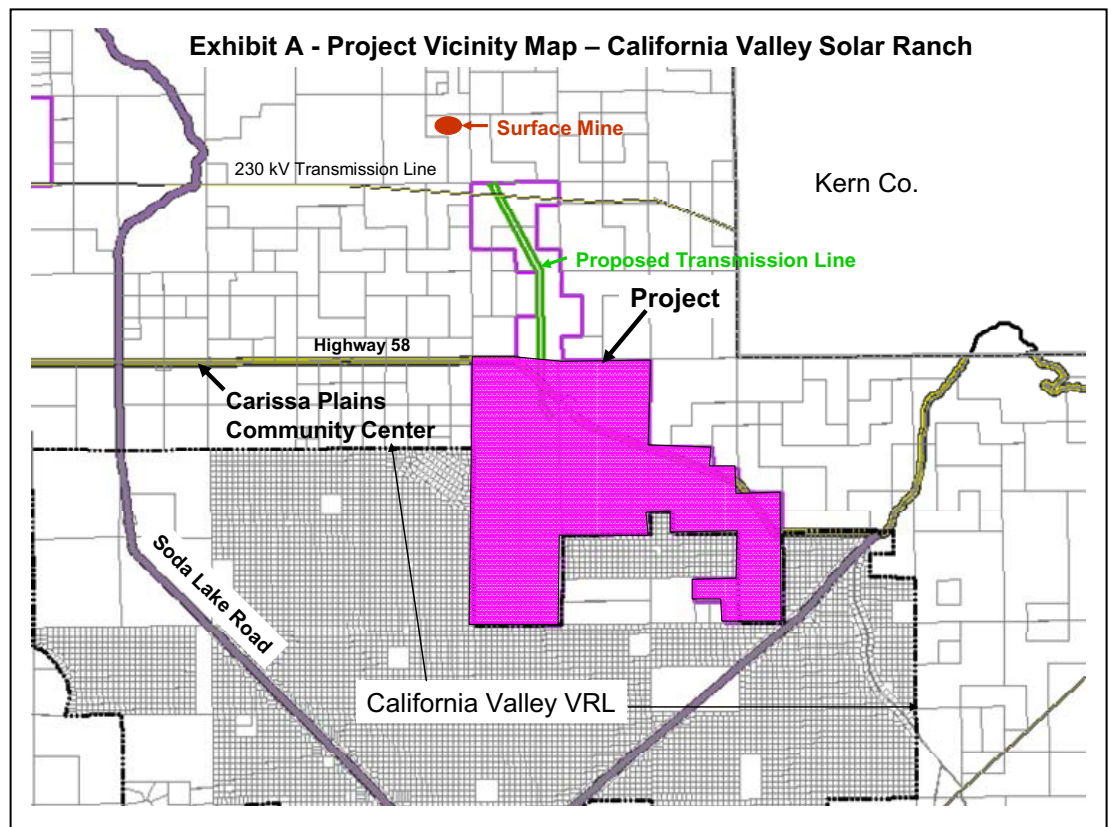
CALIFORNIA VALLEY SOLAR RANCH (SUNPOWER CORP.) CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

DATE: June 3, 2009
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Carrisa Plains Heritage Association Community Center - 10750 Carrisa Highway (Highway 58), approximately one mile east of Soda Lake Road

The San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department (Planning) has begun environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed California Valley Solar Ranch (SunPower Corporation) Conditional Use Permit. SLO County Planning invites you and other interested persons and organizations to comment on environmental issues to be evaluated as we proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

SCOPING MEETING - The scoping meeting discussion will focus on environmental issues, feasible ways in which project impacts may be minimized, and potential alternatives to the project. Additional information about the project and EIR is posted on the SLO Planning website: <http://www.sloplanning.org> under "Environmental Information" then "Environmental Notices...", then scroll to "SunPower...". We encourage your participation in this process. Please contact John McKenzie at (805) 781-5452 or jdmckenzie@co.slo.ca.us for additional information.

The EIR will include evaluation of project and cumulative impacts, mitigation measures and project alternatives. The issues to be analyzed include: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards/ Hazardous Materials, Noise, Population/ Housing, Public Services/ Utilities, Transportation/ Circulation, Water, and Land Use.



PROPOSED PROJECT - SunPower is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a photovoltaic solar power plant that can produce up to 275 megawatts (MW) of electricity to be installed over an approximate 4,365 acre (6.8 square mile) area. Approximately 2,400 acres of the total would be left undisturbed. On the remaining area, the following components are proposed: eight separate areas with solar PV arrays, electrical equipment, internal array overhead electrical lines, access roads, substation, Visitors Center with project overlook trail, Operations & Maintenance Building, and a water tank. The project also includes approximately 2.2 miles of new transmission line (two parallel, alternate routes to be considered) and switchyard to connect with the existing PG&E's existing 230 kV Morro Bay-Midway transmission line to the north. Under separate permit but analyzed in the same environmental review process, a permanent surface mine will be proposed immediately north of the project, which will provide aggregate for the project. The following are additional elements of the project:

- Construction phase includes the following:
 - Approximately 250 daily construction workers are expected over a 2.5 year period;
 - Two covered assembly areas, totaling approximately 80,000 square feet (35 feet tall);
 - Temporary concrete batch plant;
 - Haul routes are proposed on Bitterwater Road (or Shell Creek/San Juan Roads) to the north and Highway 58 to the east and west.
- Operational phase includes the following:
 - Up to 88,000 SunPower T20 Tracker units installed in eight arrays;
 - Approximately 15 permanent employees;
 - Interior collection power lines, between 35 and 60 feet tall, will transfer electricity from inverters to substation;
- Approximately 2.2 miles of transmission lines/towers (230 kV) installed between substation and switchyard, with 21 towers ranging between 105 and 125 feet tall,
- Electrical Substation (3.5 acres in size) and switchyard for interconnection to existing Morro Bay - Midway transmission lines (2.25 acres in size)
- Operations & Maintenance Building (20,550 square feet) will be 25 feet tall, and includes an outdoor storage area for materials and equipment;
- Visitors Center (1,922 square feet) will be 16 feet tall; with a connecting 1.5 mile long project overlook/trail; an additional overlook is also proposed;
- A large water tank (48-foot diameter by 20-feet tall) will be partially buried into an existing hill.
- Approximately 113 acres are within the village of California Valley.

The project is located mostly south of Highway 58, approximately four miles east of Soda Lake Road, immediately north of the village of California Valley, in the Shandon-Carrizo planning area. The proposed transmission line connection to the main line and surface mine are located north of Highway 58 directly north of the solar plant. None of the proposed development is under Williamson Act contract.

Additional information about the project and EIR is posted on the SLO Planning website:

<http://www.sloplanning.org> under "Environmental Information" then "Environmental Notices...", then scroll to "SunPower...". Or, enter the following onto the Internet address line:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/SunPower+-+High+Plains+Solar+Ranch/Notice+of+EIR+Preparation/Initial+Study.pdf>